

# LENA C. TAYLOR

Wisconsin State Senator • 4th District

---

HERE TO SERVE YOU!

**Committee on Labor, Elections, and Urban Affairs**  
**Testimony of Senator Lena C Taylor**  
**SB 427 – Corrections Supervisors Organizing Act**  
**February 27, 2008**

---

Chairman Coggs and Honorable Members,

Thank you for the opportunity to testify today in support of the Corrections Supervisors Organizers Act – SB 427. As the chairwoman of the Senate Committee on Judiciary, Corrections, and Housing and traveling this state on the State of the Justice System tour, I have seen firsthand the impact that probation/parole officers have on those persons reintegrating into society. Wisconsin's Division of Community Corrections in DOC is the largest bureau of the agency directly affecting the lives of reintegrating persons.

Currently, agents in Community Corrections are unionized and are offered collective bargaining as represented employees. Their supervisors, whom this bill addresses, are not. Agents have written into their contracts things like: pay scales, vacation standards, and even caseload limits. Supervisors do not. In "normal" situations, this would be the expected norm of the workplace. However, the Division of Community Corrections and the work they do is not the expected workplace.

Correction supervisors are handling cases, like agents, and supervising the work of the agents. But they are not policy making supervisors in management positions in the division. Unfortunately, I have heard directly from supervisors, that because they are on the ground supervisors, the department will push its excess caseload onto the workload of supervisors. This unfortunate management practice is, from my view, creating an overburdened supervisory staff that is not able to give the due attention to agents work.

The Corrections Supervisor Organizing Act – SB 427 is the empowering tool that will allows these supervisors to organize and enter into collective bargaining. There are approximately 120 Corrections supervisors in the state. Ultimately, the staff workloads and agent/supervisor personal mentality hinder the success of those reintegrating into society to a much greater level than we expect. The state must engage in discussion about changing our practices to help reintegration in our state.

I urge you to support the Corrections Supervisor Organizing Act – SB 427.

Thank you.